



# Sam Brownback

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## News Release

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## **BROWNBACK COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EPA KANSAS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today commented on the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) recently proposed new water quality standards for the State of Kansas which would supercede the state's current decisions about clean water needs.

"With all the environmental challenges we face today, EPA should focus its attention on something more substantial – particularly when the outcome of these needless regulations would be to drive numerous farmers and ranchers out of business," Brownback said.

"I hope EPA is willing to apply some common sense in approaching the problem of cleaning up our nation's waters. Everyone wants clean water – that is not an issue. The issue is how best to use our resources to achieve this goal.

"I favor the use of incentives and partnering with state and local governments to reduce runoff – rather than throwing up barriers and lawsuits which only lead to bureaucracy, not a better environment," Brownback said.

The proposed standards could force Kansas to regulate privately owned lakes and ponds as well as making it more difficult for the state to adjust its water use designations for various water bodies – which would have the effect of forcing Kansas to maintain the higher quality standards needed for recreationally-used rivers on intermittent streams and ponds which dry up completely for parts of the year.